

RANCHO ADOBE FIRE & SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CONSOLIDATION



What is Consolidation (Annexation) ?

A legal governmental process regulated by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) as outlined in California State law.

Goals of LAFCo are:

- To **encourage** the orderly formation of local government agencies and promote the efficient provision of public services
- To **preserve** agricultural land and open-space resources
- To **promote** orderly growth and discourage urban sprawl

Consolidation by definition.... is:

** the action or process of making something stronger or more solid.*

**the action or process of combining a number of things into a single more effective or coherent whole.*

Rancho Adobe Fire District will become part of Sonoma County Fire District

In 2015 there were nearly 50 separate agencies providing fire protection services in Sonoma County. As a result of consolidations:

Today there are 16

Why is Consolidation Being Considered

Review of Services and Critical Needs

Advanced Life Support

Depth of personnel

Fire Prevention, plan review, inspections and development

Continuity of operations for essential administrative services

Community Outreach

Succession of personnel and positions at all levels

Actions

- Since 2018 all 3 stations staffed 24/7 with 3 personnel
- Invested in our Fleet with modernized reliable fire apparatus
- Entered into agreements with SCFD for Paramedic Ambulances to be housed at the Cotati fire station
- Agreement for Command & Control resource sharing
- Invested in fire station remodels to improve living conditions of firefighters
- Entered into an agreement for fire prevention services with SCFD
- In process of personnel sharing at all ranks



What will Happen to My Taxes?

- Taxation will not be affected by the consolidation
 - Property Taxes – unchanged methodology
 - Special Tax (Measure W) – unchanged methodology

Increased level of service, support and operations with NO change in taxation

What Will Happen to the Firefighters?

- Your Rancho Adobe Firefighters fully support the Consolidation
- You will continue to see existing firefighters and some new faces
- The community will continue to benefit from experienced, well-trained firefighters.
- We will continue to respond from all of our fire stations with enhanced personnel –
- ***NO fire stations are closing, and no personnel are being laid off***
- We are enhancing service to the community – not reducing it!

Consolidation / Annexation Process

- Municipal Service Review / Sphere of Influence
- Service Delivery & Financial Plan
- Application for Annexation
- LAFCO Commission Analysis and Vote
- Public Protest Period of 45 days (landowners & voters)
- Approval by the LAFCo Commission
- Consolidation would become effective July 1, 2026

Partnering with Sonoma County Fire District

- Paramedics on the Fire Engines
- Full Administrative Division support – with continuity of operations
- Expanded depth of personnel for succession
- Established Fire Prevention Division
- Established Community Outreach program
- Fire Apparatus Fleet Maintenance Division



Benefits to our Community

- Level of Service Enhancements
- Continuity of Operations Plan throughout all Divisions
 - Operational Support
 - Fire Prevention
 - Administration, Human Resources, Finance

How do I have input into the process?

- ✓ Provide email comments to the Fire Chief jveliquette@rafd.org
- ✓ Provide in person comments at our Board of Directors meetings – 3rd Wednesday each month at 7:00pm – Cotati Fire Station
- ✓ Written comments during LAFCo Protest Period – *each parcel owner will receive notification.*

Questions?